

Message Text

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TAGS: PINS, PINT, PEPR, UK, EI
SUBJECT: PM LYNCH MARKS ELECTION ANNIVERSARY WITH REMARKS
TO POLITICAL CORRESPONDENTS

1. ON JUNE 15 IRISH PRIME MINISTER JACK LYNCH MARKED THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF HIS LANDSLIDE RETURN TO POWER WITH A LEINSTER HOUSE MEETING WITH LOCAL POLITICAL CORRESPONDENTS. HIS REMARKS TOUCHED ON THE NORTH, ON THE PERFORMANCE OF AND GOVERNMENT PLANS FOR THE ECONOMY, ON ALLEGATIONS OF GARDA BRUTALITY, AND (AT LEAST OBLIQUELY) ON HIS OWN PERSONAL POLITICAL FUTURE. A SEPARATE CABLE COVERS LYNCH'S TREATMENT OF THE NORTH. OTHER MAJOR TOPICS ARE SUMMARIZED BELOW.

2. THE ECONOMY - LYNCH DEFENDED THE GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE TO DATE. HE WHEELED OUT A VARIETY OF STATISTICS TO BACK HIS CASE, INCLUDING FIGURES REFLECTING A SIGNIFICANT DROP (FROM ABOUT 110,000 TO ABOUT 101,000) IN UNEMPLOYMENT OVER THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS, AS WELL AS STRENGTH IN RETAIL SALES, CONSTRUCTION AND INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT. HE EXPRESSED OPTIMISM CONCERNING THE PROSPECTS FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC
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STRATEGY GIVEN OBSERVANCE OF THE NATIONAL WAGE AGREEMENT AND ALLOWING FOR THE FACT THAT THE CURRENT EXTERNAL ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT IS SLUGGISH. HE REITERATED PREVIOUS STATEMENTS REGARDING THE FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR, INCLUDING FOREIGN INVESTORS, TO LOCAL GROWTH AND JOB CREATION.

3. THE GREEN PAPER - THIS LONG AWAITED DOCUMENT SETTING OUT ECONOMIC OPTIONS FOR EXAMINATION, DEBATE AND DECISION BY THE "SOCIAL PARTNERS" IS TO BE RELEASED JUNE 16. THIS PROCESS IS TO CULMINATE IN THE PUBLICATION OF A DEFINITIVE POLICY PAPER THIS FALL. (THE EMBASSY WILL SUBMIT SEPTTEL ON THE GREEN PAPER).

4. ALLEGATIONS OF GARDAI BRUTALITY - LYNCH STATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD EXAMINED THE AMNESTY REPORT IN GREAT DETAIL AND HAD DECIDED THAT A PUBLIC INQUIRY OF THE KIND PROPOSED WOULD NOT BE VERY EFFECTIVE IN THE LONG RUN. "THE PEOPLE MAKING THESE CLAIMS (OF BRUTALITY) WOULD BE PEOPLE WHO WOULD NATURALLY SEEK TO OBTAIN THE ULTIMATE PROPOGANDA VALUE FROM AN ENQUIRY." THE ALLEGATIONS, HE STATED, WERE "GROSSLY EXAGGERATED". HE PROMISED THAT THE P'BRIAIN COMMITTEE REPORT WOULD BE PUBLISHED WITH GARDA OBSERVATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMENTS ON BOTH WITHIN A MATTER OF WEEKS.

5. THE PM'S POLITICAL FUTURE - LYNCH REMARKED THAT SEAN LEMASS HAD GIVEN HIM TWO YEARS TO ESTABLISH HIMSELF AS PARTY LEADER, AND HE THOUGHT THIS A FAIR TIME. HE FEELS THAT A VARIETY OF FACTORS BESIDES AGF -- SUCH AS MENTAL OUTLOOK AND ABILITY -- SHOULD PLAY A ROLE IN DETERMINING A DECISION TO RESIGN. THE 60 YEAR OLD LEADER'S MIND IS OPEN ON WHETHER OR NOT HE WOULD LEAD

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FIANNA FAIL INTO THE NEXT ELECTION BUT HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO DO SO IF HE HAS THE CAPACITY, HEALTH AND WILL.
REND AHL

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